

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 QUITO 05266 181934Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05

AGR-05 /055 W

----- 118813

R 181903Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6418

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 5266

HQS FOR IGIL

EMBASSY & CONSULATE FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: OPERATION POPPY

1. SYNOPSIS: ONE MONTH IN THE FIELD, COVERING FOUR NORTH-ERN PROVINCES HAS REVEALED NO CURRENT CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES, MERELY SPORADIC GROWTH IN CERTAIN AREAS. INTER-VIEWS HAVE REVEALED ONLY WAR TIME CULTIVATION IN PERHAPS TWO PROVINCES. ADDITIONALLY, UNSEASONABLE HEAVY RAINS ARE SOMEWHAT DELAYING THE STUDY.

2. DETAILS: THUS FAR EXAMINATION OF THE FOUR NORTHERN PROVINCES HAS REVEALED NO CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES, MERELY SPORADIC WILD GROWTH IN WHEAT FIELDS OF COTOPAXI PROVINCE. MANY POPPIES HAVE BEEN LOCATED, HOWEVER NOT THE OPIUM PRODUCING VARIETY WHICH HAVE LED TO CONFLICTING REPORTS IN THE PAST. THE ACID CONTENTS OF THE SOIL OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED FOUR PROVINCES (CARCHI, IMBABURA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 QUITO 05266 181934Z

PICHINCHA AND COTOPAXI) IS SUCH THAT ALONG WITH THE

ALTITUDE OF 1800-3200 METERS, IS IDEAL FOR CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM PRODUCING POPPY. NO CULTIVATION OR GROWTH SO FAR HAS BEEN FOUND ABOVE 3200 METERS, DUE TO THE COLD WEATHER.

3. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH NATIVES IN IMBABURA PROVINCE REVEAL THAT THERE WAS CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES DURING WW II. ONE PERSON INTERVIEWED RECALLED WORKING IN THE OPIUM POPPY FIELDS DURING THE WAR YEARS, WHEREAS HE COLLECTED THE OPIUM AND WAS TOLD IT WAS DESTINED FOR THE US FOR THE WAR EFFORT. AT THAT TIME REPORTEDLY THERE WERE MANY, MANY SITES OF CULTIVATED POPPIES IN PERHAPS 1/2 ACRE PLOTS, IN AN EFFORT TO CONCEAL THEM. MANY PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED, INCLUDING TOWN MAYORS, ARMY AND POLICE OFFICIALS; SOME AMERICANS WERE PRESENT AT THE SITES.

4. AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR, THE ECUADOREAN ARMY DESTROYED ALL FIELDS OF CULTIVATED POPPIES AND NONE HAVE BEEN GROWN SINCE IN THOSE AREAS. PARTS OF PICHINCHA PROVINCE ALSO WERE INVOLVED.

5. THE RECENT INCLEMENT WEATHER HAS CONSIDERABLY DELAYED OPERATION POPPY WITH UNSEASONABLE HEAVY RAINS IN THE SIERRA. THE STUDY IS SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE ON JULY 22ND, CONCENTRATING IN THE MORE SUSPECTED AREAS OF BOLIVAR, CHIMBORAZO AND TUNGURAHUA.

6. A MORE DETAILED REPORT HAS BEEN FORWARDED ON A
DEA 6.
BREWSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO05266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750249-1084
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750742/aaaablpf.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPERATION POPPY
TAGS: SNAR, EC
To: DEA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006